NEWS RELEASE

MATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture - Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service 100 Centennial Mall North Suite 298 - Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 - Phone: (402) 437-5541

Contact: Mark Harris (402) 437-5541 E-mail: nass-ne@nass.usda.gov

Web: www.usda.gov/nass/

NEBRASKA 2005 WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS UNCHANGED FROM YEAR AGO

LINCOLN, Neb., January 12, 2005 -- Nebraska's winter wheat seedings for the 2005 crop is expected to total 1.85 million acres, unchanged from last year, according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. This maintains the second highest acreage level devoted to wheat since the 1999 crop.

Seeding was underway by the first of September. Rainfall across the Panhandle and southwest during September was double normal amounts, assisting germination and establishment of the young crop. Rainfall did, however, slow seedings, with producers finishing planting a few days behind normal. Weather conditions since planting has left the crop rated 64 percent good and excellent, well above last year and normal.

Access the National publication for this release at: http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/field/pcp-bbw/wtry0105.pdf